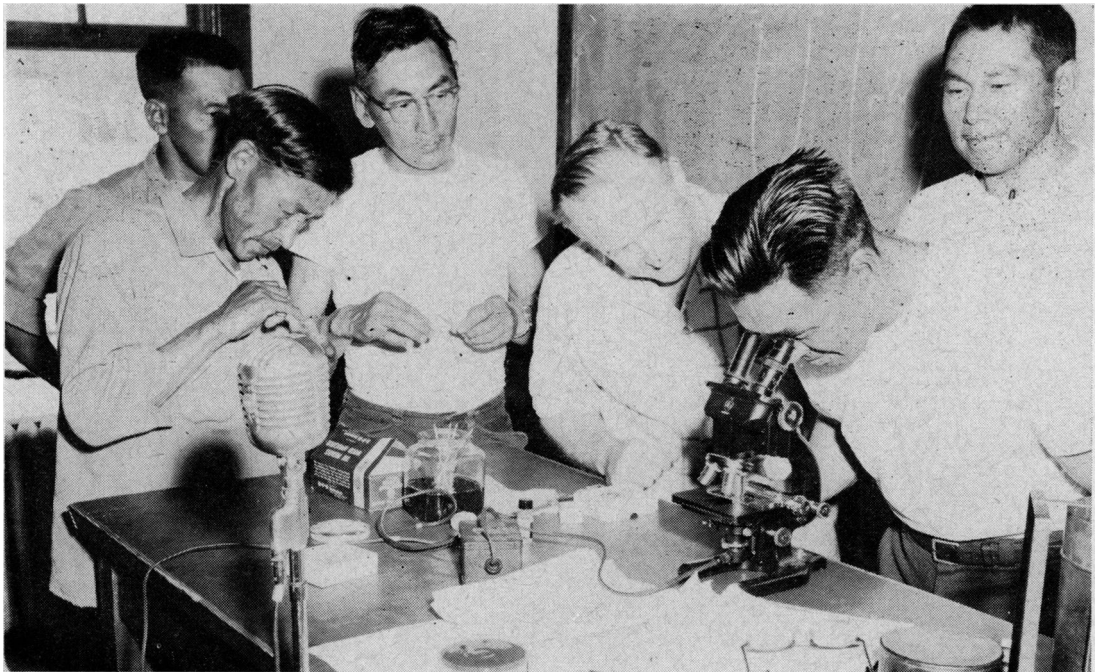


Robert Cleveland, *left*, of Shungnak and Joseph Lomack of Akiachak make a laboratory slide as they learn about germs in the sanitation aides' course. A microscopic view of the bacteria of tuberculosis, a disease familiar to them, is a peek at a new world.

## Eskimo Sanitarians

Providing isolated Eskimo villages on the shores of the Arctic Ocean with a safe water supply and adequate waste disposal is a challenge. Year-round permafrost, a frozen water supply, summer flies and mosquitoes, and a people bound by traditions are some of the obstacles to sanitation in such villages. But villagers are overcoming the obstacles with the help of the Sanitation and Engineering Section, Alaska Department of Health.

Under contract to the Alaska Native Health Service of the Public Health Service, the department in 1955 began training men, selected by their village councils,



Instructor Jim Savage, *third right*, shows village presidents, through a microscope, material removed from their teeth. To further the aides' future

projects in their own communities, the presidents of their home villages joined the students for the last week of the 1957 course at the University of Alaska.

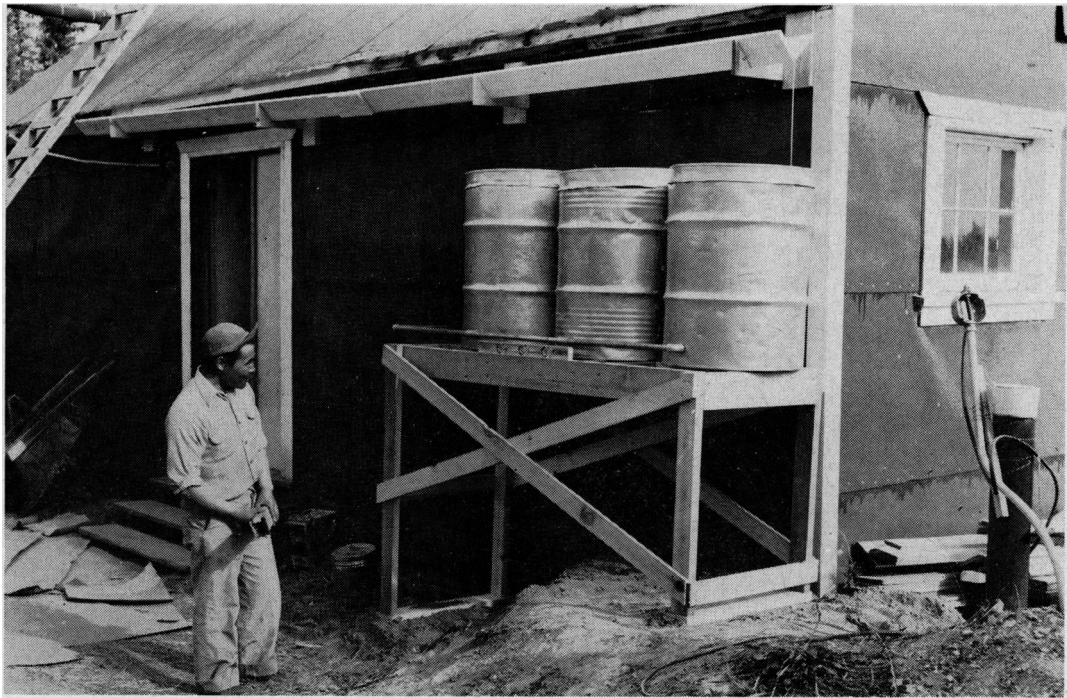
to be sanitation aides. In a month's course at the University of Alaska in Fairbanks, given by members of the department, a man from an Eskimo village learns ways of outwitting or using the harsh environment in practicing sanitation.

He learns about germs, as well as why and where dog teams should be tethered, about jetting wells through the permafrost, and how to use oil drums and sod pits in waste disposal. He also masters tools he may never have seen before and practices the techniques of persuading people to adopt the new devices he has learned to make.

When the sanitation aide completes the course and returns to his village, he is equipped with the tools he will need as well as his new knowledge. To a people accustomed to centuries-old ways, the Eskimo sanitation aides bring a chance for better lives. (Photographs were supplied by the Sanitation and Engineering Section, Alaska Department of Health.)



In fieldwork during the course at Fairbanks, aides fasten faucets in water barrels used to collect rain from the roofs in villages when other sources of water are lacking. The men learn to use tools, such as the knock-out punch, which some have never seen before.



Teddy Brink of Kasiglook uses a level to check the slope of the barrel stand so that water will flow into the house even under a low head. A pebble tied

to the string hanging from the trough to the top of the barrel serves as an eave spout. Class project was installing rainwater system for this building.



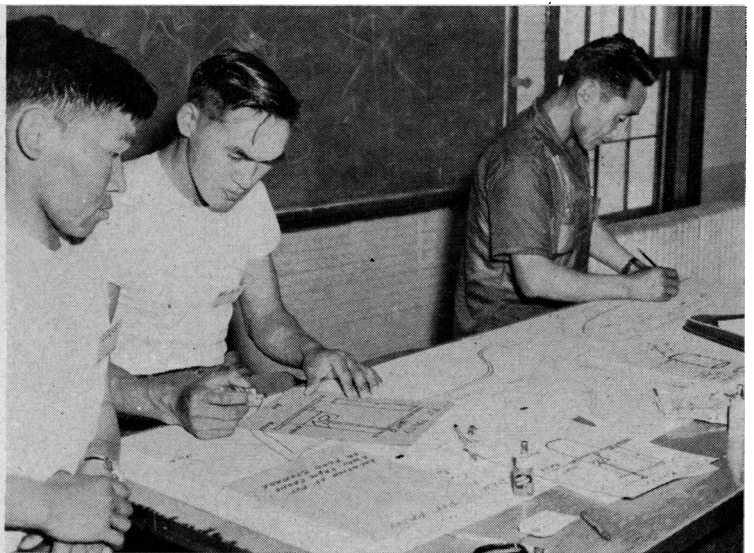
Sanitation aides rig a tripod for exploratory jetting and drilling for water. Fieldwork was done in the university's geophysical area.



Cutting and threading water pipes are tasks new to them, but Herb Apassingok, *left*, of Gambell, and Teddy Brink readily master the skill.



Tom Brown, *left*, of White Mountain and Wilbur Karmun of Deering complete a grate for an incinerator. In an Eskimo village, dog food would be heated on top of the drum while trash was



burned inside. *Right*. Students prepare training aids they will use to introduce new devices in their home villages. Community education methods are a part of the aides' course.